THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKARAIYAR): (a) The proposal for the Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline is at initial stages of discussion. For the gas pipeline from Myanmar through Bangladesh, following tripartite Ministerial-level discussions in Yangon on 12-13 January, 2005, a draft tripartite MoU was prepared at the technical lebel in Yangon on 24-25 February, 2005. This draft MoU is under examination of the Government. India's participation in the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan gas pipeline project is under examination.'

(b) Discussions on these projects are conducted in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) In keeping with established practice, the Mirnistry of External Affairs handles all foreign policy dimensions but techno-commercial angles are substantively handled by the Ministry concerned in terms of the Allocation of Business Rules.

(d) Yes, Sir, to the extent that the Ministry of External Affairs so desires.

(e) Yes, Sir. Safeguards to ensure security of supplies would be built into the project when the details are finalized.

PCRA'S awareness programme on fuel crisis

3514. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Petroleum Conservation and Research Association of India is seized of the impending fuel crisis India is facing and to fine-tune its mass education and awareness programmes through press and electronic media;

(b) whether the oil companies would consider sponsoring walking clubs and use of manually propelled vehicles for short distance commuters and students; and

(c) whether the oil companies would also sponsor dedicated pedestrian and cycling tracks along the highways and roads within urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) is engaged in mass education and awareness programmes about energy conservation through print and electronic media.

(b) and (c) Oil Companies join hands with PCRA in measures related to energy conservation among the masses. From time to time, Oil Companies also sponsor related activities in accordance with their respective corporate policy and procedures. The suggestions made at (b) and (c) have been noted for further consideration.

ONGC'S LNG Plant in Russia

†3515. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Oil and Natural Gas Commission is considering on the possibility of installing Liquefied Natural Gas Plant in Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)/ ONGC Videsh Ltd. have no proposal at present for setting up a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Plant in Russia.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fund for exploration of crude

3516. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of crude oil produced in the country in 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 respectively;

(b) the targets for crude oil production in this current year;

(c) whether Government have any plans to increase exploration for oil and hydrocarbons in the country; and

(d) if so, the details of plans to fund expanded exploration for crude oil in the country?

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†Ortginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.